



PROTECTED B

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

SITUATION REPORT

DATE: 2022-01-30

FILE NAME: Project HENDON

Report#: 028-2022

Event: Freedom Convoy/BearHug 2.0

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☐	Third Party Rule	This information cannot be used, duplicated or disseminated without approval from the author.

The information in this report is current to 2022-01-30 at 1230 hours.

POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

The OPP continues to be engaged in this initiative with resources on the ground providing real-time updates and observations to the National Capital Region Command Centre – Combined Intelligence Group as events unfold.

1. The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) has advised that some of the truck drivers in the convoy from British Columbia have become frustrated because they are unable to drive their trucks all the way to Parliament Hill. **(BELIEVED RELIABLE)**

Information from the OPS indicates that the designated parking areas around Parliament Hill for the vehicles in the convoys were filled by vehicles that arrived on 2022-01-28. **(RELIABLE)**

One organizer for BearHug 2.0 advised the OPS that they would surround the area (presumably around Parliament Hill) with the goal of blocking traffic. **(BELIEVED RELIABLE)**

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OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

Information from open sources, including the media and social media, is critical for developing all-source intelligence that provides context, and which identifies indicators of ideologies, beliefs, and attitudes that motivate subjects of interest and influence their behaviours. This component of all-source intelligence is vital for informing law enforcement in developing strategies and tactics to prevent, mitigate or respond to potential threats.

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

2. Open source has identified messaging on the Operation BearHug 2.0 website indicates that the protest will begin today with a church service on Parliament Hill led by Pastor [REDACTED]. For 2022-01-31, events will begin with speeches in Confederation Park. No further details are provided. **(RELIABLE)**

The website notes that if someone has an idea for an event, they should speak with an organizer to arrange it. The post further notes that the protest should be peaceful and that violence is not acceptable. However, media reporting indicates that one individual at the protest narrowly missed a CBC reporter when he threw a full can of beer at him on 2022-01-29, and the RIDEAU Centre closed early due to crowds of maskless protestors in the shopping centre. The Rideau Centre is reported to be closed all day today due to the protest, as are all LCBO outlets in downtown Ottawa. **(RELIABLE)**

The post further calls for the following:

- at least 1000 people to go maskless shopping
 - people to pressure the media
 - a block party at the Prime Minister's residence **(RELIABLE)**
3. Social media messaging has been identified indicating that the Prime Minister is actually in British Columbia. **(UNRELIABLE)**
 4. On 2022-01-29, the CANADIAN TRUCKING ALLIANCE (CTA) issued a statement disassociating itself from protestors in Ottawa who were not part of the trucking industry. The CTA requested truck drivers to hold a peaceful demonstration today and then go home. **(RELIABLE)**
 5. Media reporting indicates that \$1M from the GOFUNDME donations has been released to the organizer. **(RELIABLE)**

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6. Media reporting indicates that two COVID-19 vaccine clinics were closed due to the protest. One clinic has been closed from 2022-01-28 to 2022-01-30, while another was closed for 2022-01-28. A recent post on the CANADA UNITY webpage celebrates these closures. The post was made in the name of [REDACTED], the spouse of [REDACTED] (a.k.a. [REDACTED]). The post was met with at least one positive response. **(RELIABLE)**
7. A social media message in the name of [REDACTED] (Queen [REDACTED]) features an image of a banner with a picture of [REDACTED], the self-proclaimed Queen of Canada. The caption indicates that I AM QUEEN [REDACTED]'S CONVOY will be arriving on Parliament Hill on 2022-02-03 and will be raising the Kingdom of Canada's flag at 1500 hours. The caption further notes that she would like to meet with protestors in person, suggesting that she may intend to travel to Ottawa. A second post has also been identified indicating that [REDACTED] may be attempting to raise funds for her convoy's travel to Ottawa. **(UNKNOWN)**
8. At a rally in Texas on 2022-01-29, former President Donald TRUMP publicly praised the protest in Ottawa. Open source identified a video of [REDACTED] and his travelling companions bragging about social media messaging from 2022-01-25 in which Donald TRUMP Jr. also praised the convoys. **(RELIABLE)**
9. The GoFundMe account supporting the Freedom Convoy amounts to almost \$8.7 million (2022-01-30 1213 hours). This suggests that recent donations have been sufficient to replace the \$1million released to the organizer and exceed previous amounts. **(RELIABLE)**
10. The "ADOPT A TRUCKER" fundraiser had raised \$46,447 as of 2022-01-28. As of 2022-01-30 at 1214 hours, the amount had more than doubled to \$105,738. **(RELIABLE)**

ASSESSMENT

Law enforcement should anticipate significant disruption today in Ottawa as operation BearHug 2.0 begins. In addition to the noted activities (maskless shopping; pressuring the media; attending the Prime Minister's house), protestors may also attend beer stores and restaurants en masse, and it is likely that they will harass or intimidate retail employees.

The positive social media messaging regarding the closure of vaccine clinics could result in some protestors attempting to disrupt clinics that are still operating both in Ottawa and elsewhere. Further, we previously reported on social media messaging suggesting protest at Ottawa-area hospitals. We have identified no further such messaging, but a demonstration at a hospital in Ottawa or elsewhere cannot be excluded.

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The apparent lack of planning for events in Ottawa is highly likely to lead to spontaneous, organic activities that will create challenges for law enforcement. The presence of a large crowd of individuals representing various causes and grievances; who are convinced of their own authority and right to behave as they want; and who are not being directed by leaders through a pre-organized schedule of events, will likely motivate some to make their own plans either as individuals or groups. Any that do are highly unlikely to follow the direction of organizers if they do not wish to. The call by BearHug 2.0 organizers for individual protestors to generate ideas for activities is an indicator that such spontaneous activities may occur.

Further, encouragement by political figures and other influencers is likely to agitate some protest attendees, as is ongoing disinformation narratives about false flag operations and the whereabouts of the Prime Minister.

The presence at the protest on 2022-01-29 of the banner with [REDACTED]'s likeness on it and of what appear to be flags of her "Kingdom of Canada" suggest that some of the protestors are also her followers or supporters. It is unknown whether [REDACTED] will actually attend in Ottawa: however, any of her supporters who may already be there are likely to remain in order to meet her, and some that are not may decide to attend, potentially increasing the number of people at any ongoing protests on or after 2022-02-03.

The statement by the CTA is unlikely to have much effect on the plans or the behaviour of the protestors: some convoy drivers had previously denounced the Association for its public stance against the protest. Further, multiple sources indicate that many of the protestors are not related to the trucking industry, but represent a range of other movements and espouse a range of ideologies.

Project HENDON has not identified any concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest or Operation BearHug 2.0.

However, conditions at the protest in Ottawa appear to be very fluid and potentially volatile.

The possibility that the protest, or elements of it, could escalate quickly to direct action that requires a law enforcement response, or that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a threat with little or no warning, cannot be excluded.

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TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Unconfirmed information of unknown reliability suggests that **some convoy participants or supporters may bring weapons** with them to Ottawa;
- Spontaneous protests may occur with no warning.
- Police communications may be monitored;
- Protestors are likely to record all police activities;
- Some attendees may be using the SIGNAL app (encrypted) for communication;
- Potential for the use of drones for counter-surveillance and tactical planning.

EVENT SCHEDULE

2022-01-30

- **New Hamburg-Stratford: Freedom Rally** – starting at the Wilmot recreation centre (1330 hours)
- **Sarnia: Convoy** – Michigan Ave. at Bluewater Bridge (1100 hours)

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Date:	30 January 2022	

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